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Letter dated 27 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit herewith a letter from H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Foreign Minister, regarding the subversive activities and acts of aggression carried out against the Sudan by Eritrea (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 27 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

1. I am writing to you once again concerning a matter about which the Government of the Sudan has frequently complained to your august Council, namely the subversive acts of aggression and sabotage carried out by the State of Eritrea against the Sudan for the purpose of undermining the peace agreement achieved in southern Sudan after arduous efforts and at thwarting the endeavours currently under way in Abuja towards achieving peace and stability in Darfur province.

2. At a time when the Government of the Sudan is exerting intensive efforts on all fronts and at all levels with a view to achieving peace and comprehensive reconciliation throughout the country, I regret to inform you that Eritrea, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, persists in its subversive role designed to destabilize and threaten the national security of the Sudan. In that connection I wish to inform you of the following:

(i) No doubt you have all followed the intensive efforts being made at this time in Abuja towards arriving at a rapid political settlement to put an end to the conflict in Darfur. The Government has sent a fully empowered high-level delegation. In this context, the mediators have put forward a "declaration of principles" document to govern and expedite the negotiation process. Yet Eritrea, which has sent a delegation to Abuja without being invited to do so by the African Union and in spite of the reservations of the Government of the Sudan, has insisted on having its delegation remain in Abuja and on participating in the negotiations as an observer. That delegation has sought to incite the rebel movements, in particular the Justice and Equality Movement, to adopt hard-line positions in order to abort the round of negotiations, and there is no need for us to enumerate the obstacles that the negotiations currently face as a result.

(ii) The Eritrean regime recently organized a number of conferences of Sudanese armed opposition groups in Eritrea, the latest of which was the conference at Rabda, within Eritrean borders, at which the establishment of what is known as the "Eastern Front Organization", made up of the Beja Congress, the Free Lions group and the Darfur rebels, was announced;

The Eritrean regime continues to offer political, training and logistic support to those organizations. Within this context, in recent months the Eritrean regime has set up within its territory a number of camps from which military actions against the Sudan are carried out by those groups. Those camps are the following:

(a) Hadish camp, the main headquarters of armed movements, situated in the Rabda region in Khor Lokobib, approximately 30 kilometres from the Sudanese border;

(b) Homit camp, near Mount Adasir;

(c) Aqayid camp, in the Khor Sawa highlands;

(d) Sha`loti camp, in the Rabda region;

(e) Umm Aloba camp, west of Goloj, in which there are some 2,000 fighters.

(iii) Within the framework of the comprehensive approach including political, humanitarian, social and development aspects being followed by the Government with a view to a resolution of the situation in eastern Sudan in order to complement the peace efforts under way in other parts of the country, on 23 and 24 May 2005 the Government held, in Kassala, a second brainstorming conference on questions relating to eastern Sudan, in which representatives of the people of eastern Sudan belonging to the various tribes, classes and political leanings took part.

On 24 May 2005, as the delegates who had participated in the conference were returning to their home regions in Kassala, Al-Qadarif, and Red Sea states, an armed force comprising elements belonging to the Beja Congress and the Justice and Equality Movement infiltrated the country from Eritrea and abducted three members of the Legislative Assembly from Red Sea state, namely:

a. Tagelsir Widaa Taha Alfadul, from the Port Sudan 5th district, Chairman of the Economic Committee of the Legislative Assembly for Red Sea state;

b. Eissa Alomda Khimisan Moussa, from the Port Sudan 9th district;

c. Mahmoud Osman Idris Hamid, from the Port Sudan 10th district, Chairman of the Services Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

In addition, five soldiers were abducted in the same incident, namely:

a. Police Sergeant Mahmoud Hamid Alfaki;

b. Corporal Abouobaida Mohamed Backeet Jubara;

c. Lance Corporal Hussain Mohamed Tahir;

d. Lance Corporal Zakaria Abdelnabi Ishag;

e. Police Private Hamad Adrop Hamad.

We should draw attention here to the fact that this operation was conducted under the command of the person known as Hamid Elias Taielkarim on direct instructions from the Eritrean General Tekhle Mangos, the official in charge of the Sudanese opposition in Eritrea.

Moreover, the two movements admitted to carrying out the said attack and abduction in official communiqués issued by them (see annex 1).

(iv) Eritrea hosts the headquarters of the command of the opposition National Democratic Alliance. Yet despite this, the Government of the Sudan, in its belief that an all-inclusive peace and national reconciliation are absolutely essential, maintained a constant dialogue with the National Democratic Alliance that ultimately led to the negotiations which took place in Cairo under the sponsorship of His Excellency Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Those negotiations resulted in the signing of a peace agreement between the Government and the National Democratic Alliance on 18 June 2005 in the

presence of Presidents Hosni Mubarak and Omer Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir and of John Garang, Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

It is also regrettable that before the ink could even dry on that agreement, Eritrea spurred armed groups of the Beja Congress and the Justice and Equality Movement to carry out, on 20 June 2005, a treacherous attack on the Delabiyay area, near Toker, which resulted in the following:

Persons taken prisoner and missing:

- First Lieutenant Abdelazim Mohamed Mahmoud taken prisoner
- 35 non-commissioned officers and privates either captured or missing

Persons wounded:

- An officer and 4 non-commissioned officers and privates.

In addition, the assailants gained possession of the following materiel and weapons:

- 1 Land Cruiser pick-up
- 1 107-mm rocket launcher
- 1 82-mm mortar
- 1 B-10 M/D gun
- 1 SPG-9 antitank gun
- 5 60.75-mm mortars
- 6 RPG rocket launchers
- 1 Goryunov machine gun
- 3 12.7-mm Doshka machine guns

Both the Beja Congress and the Justice and Equality Movement claimed responsibility for this attack in military communiqué No. 1 and military communiqué No. 2 and admitted to causing the said casualties and losses (see annex 2).

This treacherous attack, in addition to constituting a direct act of aggression against the Sudan, is also intended to undermine the important agreement signed in Cairo.

(v) The Security Council will grasp better than anyone else that Eritrea's actions to undermine the peace efforts in Darfur and in the Sudan in general, training the Darfurian armed groups that signed the N'Djamena ceasefire agreement and the Abuja protocol on security issues, providing them with arms and military equipment and giving them logistic support for operating from within Eritrea, constitute a clear violation of Security Council resolutions 1556 (2004), 1590 (2005) and 1591 (2005). We refer specifically to paragraphs 7 and 8 of resolution 1556 (2004), which require all States not to supply weapons or training to individuals or non-governmental entities in Darfur.

3. We are surprised by the fact that, while over the past years we have repeatedly submitted complaints, for the sixth time now, to the Security Council regarding the violations and acts of aggression committed by the State of Eritrea, until now, regrettably, the Security Council has not so much as mentioned, much less condemned, those obvious violations of the instruments of international legitimacy. We feel that the Security Council, through its silence in that regard, has encouraged Eritrea to continue to escalate further and further its hostile operations against the Sudan.

4. The subversive activity engaged in by Eritrea with respect to peace efforts in the Sudan and the escalation of direct military operations across the eastern Sudanese border are moving things towards an explosion that it will be difficult to contain and will affect stability in the entire region unless the Council promptly and decisively shoulders its responsibility, adopting measures that can be summed up as follows:

(a) The addressing, by the Council, of an unequivocal message to Eritrea to halt its aggression against the Sudan;

(b) The coercion of Eritrea to comply with the resolutions adopted by the Council concerning the situation in Darfur;

(c) The cessation of military support to armed groups in eastern and western Sudan and the closing of training camps and rear bases for cross-border activity;

(d) The return of the prisoners, missing persons and materiel captured and taken inside Eritrean territory during the attacks of 24 May and 20 June 2005.

5. The Government of the Sudan has evinced the greatest sagacity and self-control and resorted to the Security Council as the highest authority entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security. However, it has run out of patience and is coming to a critical pass where it will find itself forced, in the face of this dangerous escalation, to exercise its legitimate right to defend its sovereignty and its territorial integrity and security, a right that is fully guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Mustafa Osman **Ismail**
Minister for Foreign Affairs